

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

Cypripedium kentuckiense C.F. Reed Southern Lady's Slipper, Kentucky Lady's Slipper, Yellow Lady Slipper





Identification: Perennial plants with erect stems 6-8 dm tall. Leaves 2 or more (usually 5) in number, broadly ovate and 15-20 cm long. Flowers solitary, relatively large, and white or pale creamy white. The upper sepals 7-8 cm long, the lower connate pair 5-7 cm long, the lateral petals 8-9 cm long; the labellum (lip) is a large inflated pouch 5-6 cm long, with its margins inrolled around the orifice, and white to creamy or dull yellow; the column declined over the surface of the lip, bearing a fertile stamen (with granular pollen) on each side and dilated staminode above.

Key ID characters:

- · Plant 6-8 dm tall.
- · Flowers solitary, with a creamy lip and darker pigmented sepals and petals.
- · Lip is a large inflated pouch.



C. kentuckiense from The Flora of North America, Volume26. Copyright © 2000 Flora of North America Association

Habitat: Mesophytic woods, calcareous forests, and hardwood slope forests.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Orchidaceae, to which there are about 40 species found in LA. There are no other species of the genus *Cypripedium* known to LA.

Status:

Wetland: No Data

Global: G3 - Vulnerable

State: S1 - Critically Imperiled

Range: Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and

Virginia.

Soils: Typically acidic to calcareous, silty or clayey loams.



Hardwood Slope Forest

Similar Species: Although there are many species of orchids present in LA's flora, many are very

easily recognizable, at least to genus. The genus *Cypripedium* is no exception to this, as members have a large pouch-like lip. *C. kentuckiense* is the only species documented to occur in LA, it is unmistakable.



Cypripedium sp., Photo by L. Urbatsch

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss, narrow habitat range, and collection by plant enthusiasts.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:

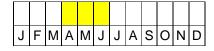
Bossier, Catahoula, De Soto*, Evangeline*, Lincoln*, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Union, Vernon, and Winn*.

* Indicates unverified presence in parish.

Dates of Natural Heritage Program Observations:

1916, 1939, 1968, 1975, 1978, 1978, 1979, 1985(5), 1987(4), 1988(2), 1989(2), 1991, 1992, 1993(2), 1994, 1996(3), 1997

Best Time for Viewing this Species:





Distribution in Louisiana

References:

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Thomas, R. Dale, and Charles M. Allen. *Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Louisiana, Vol. I: Ferns & Fern Allies, Conifers, & Monocotyledons*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, 1993.

Sheviak, Charles J. Flora of North America, Vol. 26, Magnoliophyta: Liliidae: Liliales and Orchidales. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Reed, Clyde F. "Cypripedium kentuckiense Reed, a new species of orchid in Kentucky." Phytologia 48(5): 426-427. 1981.